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HIKING / TRAIL RUNNING / MOUNTAIN & GRAVEL BIKING

FLAGPOLE KNOB GRAVEL RIDE

Located in the George Washington National Forest

Ride through lush forest roads up to Flagpole Knob, the highest point in Rockingham County. At 4,360 feet, riders can enjoy cooler temperatures and stunning views along the ridgeline. A fire ring and log benches invite riders to rest on top of the mountain. In the fall, thousands of migrating birds can be seen along the ridge. In the spring and early summer, warblers sing from the trees lining the road.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

GOOGLE: Briery Branch Gap

Driving: 40 minutes west of Harrisonburg

Signs and Marking: Some forest service roads and trails are labeled. Stay on the main road.

Parking: Unmarked pull-off parking is available along the right side of the road.

PRACTICAL PLANNING INFORMATION

Services Along Trail: None

Food & Water: Natural spring at 2 miles on the left (west) side of the road. Bring a water purification method.

Phone Service: Limited service along the route. Better coverage is available at open views along the ridge and at Flagpole Knob.

MORE INFORMATION

OFF-ROADING & OVERLANDING ENTHUSIASTS

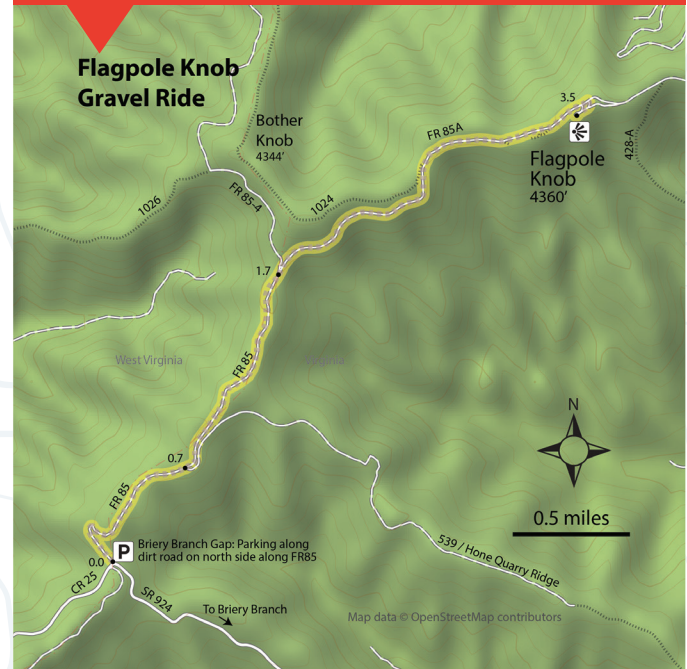
Watch for 4x4 tracks alongside FS85. The route is often intersected by off-roading vehicles, especially near Brother Knob and Flagpole Knob. Flagpole Knob has become a popular destination for overlanders, who use high clearance 4x4 vehicles to climb the mountain via rugged Union Springs or Dunkle Hollow. These vehicles are usually move at low speeds. However, you should take care around blind corners and listen for sounds of approaching vehicles.

TRAIL INFORMATION



Time: 1 hour
Distance: 7.1 miles
Elevation: +/- 809 ft

Terrain: Dirt and gravel road.
Some mud after recent rain
Preferred direction: Out and back



NAVIGATING THE TRAIL

From the community of Briery Branch, drive up Rt. 924 past the sign for Hone Quarry Recreation Area on your right and up the mountain to Briery Branch Gap. Turn right onto Forest Service Road (FS) 85 and park in the unmarked dirt pull-off area just after the intersection. Additional spots can often be found further up the road near FS539, Quarry Ridge Trail. Ride north on FS85 and stay on the main road. Within 2 miles, spring water is available through a small pipe coming from the northwest side of the road. After 3.5 miles, a clearing will emerge through the trees to the south. Take the 4x4 tracks on the right to connect to Flagpole Knob. Flagpole Knob is marked by a large grassy area and a circular dirt track. When you have rested, return to Briery Branch Gap the same way you came.

Note that temperatures are 10-15 degrees cooler in the mountains than they are in the valley. Be prepared for greater weather exposure as well as increased wind and rain on the mountain. In winter and shoulder seasons, snow and ice can remain on the trails.

